

It is owing to their tail that they turn about in the air, and change the position of their flight as often as they please. Look at that little bird, how he hops from sprig to sprig, and wags his little tail. He feels no cares nor disappointments, but when naughty boys rob him and his mate of their nests.

It is a very pretty amusement to observe the resemblance, which is visible in every nest of the same kind of bird, and the difference there is between the nests of different sorts of birds; and, indeed, neatness, industry, and precaution, are visible in every part of them. Their nests are composed of splinters of dry wood, the bark of trees, dry leaves, hay, straw, moss, cow-hair, horse-hair, down, wool, spiders-webs, feathers, and a thousand other materials of the like nature.

One kind of birds build their nests at the tops of trees, another on the ground, and in the grass; but wherever their apartments are situated, they take particular

ular care to have them under some commodious shelter; that is, either under some herb, some shady bough, or a double canopy of leaves, from whence the rain may descend, without ever dripping into the nest that lies concealed beneath it. Can any thing, my dears, be more artful and prudent than this?

The outworks, or foundations of the nest, consist of more solid and substantial materials: thorns, reeds, straw, and the thickest moss they can get, are made use of for that purpose. Having first brought their nests into a roundish rough form, they then secure the opening from the bleak winds, and the intrusion of any insect. When the outside is finished, they take all imaginable care to embellish the inside with feather-hangings, or to line it with wool, so as to make it warm and commodious for themselves and their little brood.

What is very singular, my dear children, when they cannot furnish themselves